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# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, June 20. 1710.

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I AM not Asham'd to own, That I take no Delight in Panegyricks, neither is it a Talent abundantly Useful. It is not without great difficulty to be perform'd Uprightly; 'tis seldom receiv'd without Censure, and ought very rarely to be Practised — Yet there is a Justice due to Merit; and especially in such an Age as this, where it is so scarce. Honesty Claims a just Acknowledgement from all Men that are Honest — And that not so much to Gratifie the Man of Merit we would Praise, as to Reproach the Adversaries of such Men with Injustice to, or at least Disregard of a Character that Claims not to be Neglect'd — Thus God himself is pleased to make the highest Panegyrick

upon Job to the Devil, that ever was or will be made upon any Man in the World; which was indeed a Satyr upon Satan himself, Upbraiding him, that he went to and fro through the Earth, and walk'd up and down therein — Yet had not observ'd the Pattern of Justice, Wisdom, Prudence, and Integrity that was so Confpicuous in Job, that There was none like him upon Earth.

I made some little Remark in my Last upon Her Majesty's Displacing or Removing, call it as you please, The Earl of — — — d from the Office of Secretary of State — — — It is certain, Offices of the State are no Inheritance, and none are less so than that of Secretary. It is also, as I mention'd in my last, no part of my Busi-

ness to Enquire, or indeed so much as to mention why her Majesty thinks fit to Change her Servants.

But we may Examine whether there are any Reasons made Publick' or not ; and we may Enquire whether, when such or such a Minister of State is Removed, 'tis for any particular Cause, or whether *Stat pro Ratione Voluntas* be all that is fit for us to Enquire into, or is proper to be said for it — And indeed this is not at all a Presuming to meddle with Her Majesty's Affairs — But it may be a Debt due to Vertue, and a piece of common Justice much more Due than Funeral Orations, or Praises of the Dead, To say something of this Matter.

It is particularly Remarkable, That of all the Removes that have been in my time in the Court, I never knew one but of which I could see a Reason before — Some grounds of Discontent, some Breach, some Misapplication or Error, or some Objection — Let no Man mistake me, I do not say the Queen had no Reason, or can give no Reason for what her Majesty has done — No Gentlemen, I am not to be Catch'd there : But we find no Reprach cast, no Reflection made, no Reason given in Justification of the Conduct, or as an Accusation upon the Person — My Lord S----d leaves the Office with the most yablemish'd Character that ever I read of any Statesman in the World — Nay, so little is to be said, that we do not find his Enemies (even those that are declared so) furnish themselves so much as with pretended Reasons, contenting themselves with Glorysing in it — That it is done without saying whether they think her Majesty has done well or ill, for her own Safety or no.

In some insulting Letters I have receiv'd since the Removing this noble Lord, as I receive daily some Tokens of the good Manners as well as good Will of the Party — After a great many Unmanly as well as Unmannerly Taunts, this follows — And now Sunderland is out of Post, and my Lord Dartmouth is put in — Had the Wretch had a Word to say of my Lord Sunderland, I had had it ; but he contents himself to

show two Things, and those two show a third.

1. That he can treat a Man of Honour without Manners, distinguishing his Respect, as if my Lord S----d was not a Peer, and an Earl, as well as my Lord D----th was a Baron.
2. That their Joy is deriv'd from the Remove of this noble Lord, who was a Restraint to their impudent Pamphleteers ; but without being able to show any Reason why he is, or ought to be out.

From which I deduce a third, as above, viz. 3. That they have nothing to lay to the Charge of my Lord S----d, either as to his Vertue, his Integrity or his Conduct ; but on the contrary, only Rejoice that they are deliver'd from the Fear of him.

Now instead of running out into Flourishes upon a Charaacter, that however Bright, has no Ears to his own Praise, that Studies rather to do well than Hear of it — That has the Reward of Vertue in himself, and seeks rather that Vertue, whose Praise is not of Men but of God — I shall Sum up what I have to say, in asking the High-Fliers of this Age, two Questions about my Lord S----d, let them Answer if they can.

1. Is it true, Gentlemen, that when her Majesty had purposed to change Hands, and part with his Lordship, or as you rudely call it, Turn him out, and Order'd Notice to be given his Lordship of her said Resolutions, Is it true I say, That her Majesty, as a Testimony of her Royal Favour, and of her being fully satisfied in his Lordship's Services, sent him Word, She had presented him with a Penſion of 3000*l.* per Ann. to be settled upon him for his Life, and in some Measure to make up the Loss of the Office of Secretary?
2. Is it true, that his Lordship, tho' with all Respect and Duty to his Sovereign, yet with a Generosity all the High-Party

Party may be Challeng'd to Parallel, Answered, NO. He was glad her Majesty was Satisfy'd he had done his Duty; But if he could not have the Honour to SERVE his Country, he would not PLUNDER IT, and so refused the Pension.

When the High-Fliers of the Age, that are now Courting the Mobb, and putting themselves forward for Parliament-Men— That would be thought Patriots, and prompt us to believe they are Acting for the Good of their Country— When they will shew us a Man among them that will do thus, whose Principles are Disinterested like this, Generous like this, and whose Character is unspotted, then I'll go farther into the Character of my Lord

S----d, tho' I make some Breach upon his Modesty in hearing it. But till then, let this for ever stop the Mouths of the flandering Party— That they cannot show me a Man of their Party that ever did Act thus, or of whom they can say, We should believe he would if he had Opportunity.

I shall go on in my next, to let them see plainly, that this Temper of Disinterested Serving her Majesty and the Government, is really more particularly found among the Whigg-Party, and not at all among the High-Fliers. It is not a pleasant Work to boast, but since they by Boasting without Merit make it necessary, I think 'tis happy for the Times that we have true Merit to Confront them with.

## MISCELLANEA.

**A**ND now, Gentlemen, I hope this Fraction about Coals is coming to a Conclusion: The Lightermen, thinking to carry all before them, have brought the Matter before the Government; in which, I am perswaded they have, as we call it, *Tane a Tartar*.

The Lightermen are the first Men I have met with a good while, who were the first to come to publick Justice with a bad Cause. I am loth to say of it what the Case would bear— But he that seeks Justice when he knows himself in the Wrong, must certainly have more Face than Head— Nay it seems an Affront to the Reputation of Justice it self, or at least to the Court they apply to— As if they could be either Byals'd in their Cause, or at least did not understand it.

And now the Gentlemen are to come before the Privy-Council— I must confess I wonder a little what they will say when the Masters shall appear, and shall acquaint the Council with the Original Combinations at New-castle, by which they have been oblig'd to make this Agree-

ment in their own Defence— When the Masters shall show to the Privy-Council how the Combination from New-castle, between the Coal-Owners and the Lightermen, has brought all this Mischief upon the Nation— When they shall show with what particular Circumstances that Combination is Illustrated; such as Bribery to the Tyme of 1500 l. per Ann. to the Lightermen— And Advance Money as to Price and Measure at New-castle to the Coal-Owners. How by this Combination, the Coal-Owners have Advanced their Coals, some 1 s. some 2 s. some 3 s. per Chaldron, and Abated their Measure almost an Eighth part? How the Masters are brought into a certain Subjection to the Coal Owners, and are, as we may say, Manag'd to their Hands, that they must load such Coals as they are Directed to, and no other; and that the Lightermen at London Deliver or Delay them according to the sorts of Coal they are Loaden with.

When these things appear at the Privy-Council, what can these Gentlemen expect, but that instead of the Masters being Censur'd

Re'd in guilty of interrupting the Trade, the Government shall order the Lightermen to be Prosecuted for Combination, and for Bag-robbing, Fore-stalling, &c. which without Question may be done to their effectual Mortification.

All Consequences in the World, however Mischievous and Fatal they may be, must be plac'd to the Account of their Causes; and they alone ought to Answer for the Interruption of the Coal-Trade, who made the first Interruption, and put the first Stop to the Freedom and Uninterrupted Course this Trade formerly enjoy'd, by invading the Properties of others, Anticipating and Interrupting the Trade by their bringing it into a Monopoly, Including and Excluding, Stopping and letting Go as Interest and Project directed.

The Coal-Trade is an Article of our Commerce driven with as little Gain and as great Hazard, as any Branch of Trade in this Nation. This makes the least Invasion upon its Freedom the more sensible, and all Interruptions the more Mischievous. The Project of the Coal-Owners has indeed nothing in it but the plain Advancement of their own Interest, by Selling their Goods as Dear as they can; and therefore say they, there is no Crime in it. But I must observe, that this Advancement of their own Interest, has so many direct Attacks upon the Interest and Property of

other Men attending it, and so much Injury to Trade in general, that it cannot be justify'd.

I do not so much condemn the Coal-Owners in it, as the Lightermen. The first are many of them honest Gentlemen, and aim singly at a common Advancement of their Estates; but the other play *Jack-a-bob-sides* with the whole Trade; they are both Buyers and Sellers, and having the Trade, as it were, in their own Hands, they make Use of that Advantage to Crush the Masters in order to purchase the Salary they enjoy; and to approve themselves faithful Agents to the Coal-Owners, they descend to the foulest Practices in Trade, that I meet with in any part of our Commerce.

I want very much to hear what they will have to say for themselves at the Council-Table, to Justify themselves, I think they cannot — The wrong Steps they have taken, are too many for a modest Man to confess — To Re&tifie them I foresee they have no Inclination; and to Deny them, either the Fact or the Consequences, or that these things are the true Occasions of all this Mischief, I think there is no Room for it; so that I see no place for any thing but a just Reproach on the Government, and that I think they ought to prepare for.

## ADVERTISMENT.

This Day is Publish'd,

**A**N Appeal from the City to the Country, for the Preservation of her Majesty's Person, Liberty and Property, and the Protestant Religion. Remonstrating the Dangers and Miseries of an Arbitrary and Tyrannical Power, which the People of Great Britain may (if not timely prevented) be involv'd in, by the fiery Principles, and pernicious Doctrines, of Dr. Sacheverell and

his High Church Faction. Occasionally Written upon the late impudent Assaunts offer'd to her Maj: sty's Royal Crown and Dignity by the People of Banbury and Warwick. With Directions to the Citizens of London, relating to their Election of Sheriffs for the Year ensuing. Sold by A. Baldwin at the Oxford-Arms in Warwick Lane, 1710. Price 6d.

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